

Book Reviews

THE CAMBRIDGE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF HUMAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT. Edited by Stanley J. Ulijaszek, Francis E. Johnson, and Michael A. Preece. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. 1998. 497 pp. ISBN 0-521-56046-2. \$95.00 (cloth).

As the title indicates, this volume is an encyclopedia and consequently provides broad coverage of the study of human growth and development, focusing primarily on American and European studies. Contributors to the volume are numerous (131), and all are well known for their contributions in the field of human growth research. A brief history of the study of human growth, or auxology, in America and Europe over the past 300 years is presented by James M. Tanner. The well-known growth studies in America took place at institutions such as the Fels Research Institute in Yellow Springs, Ohio; the Center for Research in Growth in Philadelphia; and the Brush Foundation at Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. In Europe, the primary studies were under the International Children's Centre (ICC) Coordinated Studies (Tanner, 1998). Tanner discusses how these growth studies began and how the basic tools we use today such as growth curves and velocity curves were first developed.

The main body of the encyclopedia is divided into 13 parts that cover areas such as measurement and assessment, patterns of growth, genetics of growth, post-natal growth and maturation, changing human growth patterns, and many others. Each part is like a mini-volume in that each bears an introductory section that is several pages in length written by a specialist, followed by separate mini-chapters or sections ranging in number from 4 to 17 per part by other contributors. A number of these mini-chapters have subsections also by different contributors. An example is found in Part 10 entitled "Between-Population Differences in Human Growth" by S. Ulijaszek. This part

has six mini-chapters, two of which have the subsections. Section 10.1 entitled "Growth and Natural Selection" by C.M. Wortham has two subsections, "Body-Size and Natural Selection" by D. Roberts and "Growth in African Pygmies" by S. Ulijaszek. However the next section, 10.2 entitled "Gene-Environment Interactions" by D. Roberts, contains no additional sections.

Each section or mini-chapter provides illustrations, photographs, and/or graphs that enhance the topic. Also, in many cases, charts such as growth curves are presented that can be used for comparative purposes. Although the illustrations are all black and white, these visual aides are a wonderful addition to the text.

Particular topics in this volume concentrate more on recent or modern populations. Part 8 concerns "Environmental Factors Influencing Birth-Weight." This section brings modern health issues to the reader's attention. Maternal HIV infections, smoking, and other substance abuses are discussed and illustrate some modern health problems that did not pose threats in the past. Recent technology and scientific advances allow examination of such topics as hormonal regulations, as in Part 4, and especially the genetics of growth, as seen in Part 3. While the majority of topics covered in this volume concern living populations, past populations receive little attention. Goodman's discussion of the issue comparing the health between hunters and gatherers and agriculturalists (pp. 387-389) is the only one treating skeletal populations.

While this volume provides an incredible resource for those interested in human growth and development, the format is not one that readers would be accustomed to using. There are no research studies included where a question or hypothesis, methods, materials, results, and discussion are presented. Citations in the text are limited to several tables where data from a particular study are presented. However, an Appendix for "Further Reading" lists over 1,000 articles and books by relevant topic. A list of

books specifically about growth and development is also presented. Within the text, readers are provided with cross-indices where a particular subject is discussed at length in another section.

Another valuable component to this encyclopedia is a list of biographies of 24 prominent contributors to the field of human growth and development. Some of these individuals lived in previous centuries, while some are still contributing to the field. These biographies include not only brief personal information, but scholarly achievements as well.

This volume is a wonderful addition to the growth literature. The contributors focus on their primary research interests. Examples include Bogin discussing patterns of human growth (pp. 91–92), Lampl writing on saltatory growth (p. 222), and Floud, Steegmann, and Ulijaszek each discussing secular changes (pp. 391–398). The volume provides a unique encyclopedic approach to the di-

verse field of human growth and development. This in itself is somewhat distracting, as I was constantly looking for citations. This has been more than adequately addressed in the Appendix mentioned previously.

The editors state that this “encyclopedia is for the health professional, the biologist, anthropologist, and educationist; indeed it is for everyone interested in growth and development” (p. 1). I agree completely with this, and I believe that this encyclopedia would be a valuable addition as a classroom reference. In a phrase, this book may be viewed as the “Britannica” for human growth and development. I highly recommend it for anyone with an interest in this exciting field of study.

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THE NATURAL HISTORY OF THE DOUCS AND SNUB-NOSED MONKEYS. Edited by Nina G. Jablonski. River Edge, NJ: World Scientific. 1998. 382 pp. ISBN 981-02-3131-8. \$64.00 (cloth).

Nina Jablonski's edited volume brings together works presented during the 1994 XVth Congress of the International Primatological Society held in Bali, Indonesia entitled, “The Biology of the Snub-Nosed Langurs of China and Vietnam,” as well as several additional chapters concerning the very poorly understood doucs. Many of the chapters present observations and analyses that have not been widely disseminated in the western scientific literature.

The book is comprised of 19 chapters presented in four sections: Evolution and Systematics, Anatomy, Ecology and Behavior, and Conservation. The weakest section is the first, Evolution and Systematics with three chapters. Chapter 2 by Jablonski presents a phylogenetic analysis of 21 colobines and 15 cercopithecines using 455 char-

acters. Her most parsimonious phylogenetic hypothesis contains some rather surprising proposed relationships. First, the African and Asian colobines do not form monophyletic groups as several recent molecular analyses have proposed. She places the olive colobus (*Procolobus verus*) as the sister-taxon of all other colobines and the black-and-white (*Colobus*) and red (*Piliocolobus*) colobus species to separate clades within the otherwise Asian portion of the tree. The pig-tailed langur (*Simias*) is hypothesized to be the most basal Asian colobine and not the sister-taxon of the proboscis monkey (*Nasalis*). The genera *Semnopithecus* and *Trachypithecus* are also inferred to be polyphyletic. As for the douc and snub-nosed monkeys, the so-called odd-nosed colobines, this analysis suggests that they are not monophyletic. Jablonski suggests that the Eurasian fossil *Mesopithecus* and *Pygathrix* belong to a monophyletic clade with *Nasalis* as their sister-taxon. This clade then groups with the various species of *Rhinopithecus*.